

## Forensic Science | Unit 8 Case Study – Whitney Houston

Using the information provided for the case and information gathered from the internet, fill in the required information in the space provided below.

**Introduction to the case:** Whitney Houston was a Grammy award winning musical artist who was found dead on February 11, 2012. Houston's body was discovered in her guest room at the Beverly Hilton, in Beverly Hills, California.

For this case study you will be studying the 2012 death of pop singer Whitney Houston. Start by reading the information in the following links. Then, complete the case study.

- [Wikipedia summary of Whitney Houston's career](#)
- [ABC news report on the night of Houston's death and the release of the autopsy report.](#)

1. Case Name: (1 point)  
**Death of Whitney Houston**
2. Dates crime occurred:(1 point)  
**February 11, 2012**
3. Persons of interest named in the investigation and relationship to victim(s): (1 point)  
**Whitney Houston**
4. Summary of crime sequence: (Detailed summary of what actually happened.) (3 points)  
**On February 11, 2012, Whitney Houston was found dead in her hotel room. She was lying face down in a water filled bathtub with drug paraphernalia nearby. The coroner's report states that she died of an accidental overdose.**
5. In lesson 8.1 you learned about defensive wounds and visible marks. Were there any visible marks mentioned in the autopsy report that suggested defensive wounds? (5 points)  
**"There are no signs of foul play"**
6. In Lesson 8.2 you learned about post-mortem changes such as liver mortis, rigor mortis and algor mortis. Does the autopsy report mention these phenomena? If so, how? (5 points)  
**Livor mortis and rigor mortis were noted at unknown times. Livor mortis was on her back**
7. In lesson 8.3 you learned about the steps the 12 general steps of an autopsy. Does this autopsy report show evidence that these steps were followed? Explain why or why not. (5 points)  
**Yes because it states all the steps they did in the right order**
8. According to the autopsy report, what was the cause of death? (3 points)  
**Accidental drug overdose**
9. In lesson 8.3 you learned about the differences between a medical examiner and a coroner. Which type of examiner(s) was/were used in this case? (4 points)  
**Coroner**
10. List at least 3 things you found interesting about this case: (1 point)  
**It shows the whole coroner's report  
There was livor mortis  
They could tell she died from an overdose**

11.Sources: (Record links to your sources.) (2 points)

<https://abcnews.go.com/Entertainment/whitney-houston-death-surprising-details-coroners-report/story?id=16076589>

<https://lss.michiganvirtual.org/d2l/le/dropbox/29766/243445/DownloadAttachment?fid=10564158>